

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 99-595

October 13, 1999

██████████  
Appeal Of Consumer Assistance Division  
Decision #1999-7188 Regarding Central  
Maine Power Company

ORDER ON APPEAL

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WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT, and DIAMOND Commissioners

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**I. SUMMARY**

In this Order we uphold the Consumer Assistance Division's decision requiring Central Maine Power (CMP) customer ██████████ to comply with the CMP Electric Lifeline Program payment arrangement established in March 1999.

**II. BACKGROUND**

In January 1999, CMP enrolled Ms. ██████████ in the Electric Lifeline Program (ELP). The ELP provided Ms. ██████████ with an \$8.00 monthly benefit. CMP required no payment arrangement in January because Ms. ██████████ did not owe an overdue amount at the time of her enrollment. She made no payments on the account in January, February, or March causing the account to become more than 60 days overdue. This triggered the requirement that a payment arrangement be established for the remaining ELP period. On March 2, CMP established a payment arrangement that required ten monthly payments of \$89 from March 22, 1999 through January 22, 2000. On May 3, CMP issued a disconnection notice containing a disconnection date of May 10 for a total overdue amount of \$480.30 because Ms. ██████████ failed to pay the March 22 and April 22 installments. On May 17, Ms. ██████████ filed a dispute with the Consumer Assistance Division. The CAD issued its decision letter on the dispute on May 17 that required Ms. ██████████ to pay the March 22, April 22, and May 22 installments for the ELP by June 4. On June 2, CMP issued a disconnection notice for a total overdue account balance. On June 14, Ms. ██████████ paid the \$267 catch-up amount. Her next installment was due on June 22. CMP issued a disconnection notice on July 1 containing a disconnection date of July 8 for failure to pay the June 22 installment. Ms. ██████████ paid the missed installment on July 6. On August 2 CMP issued another disconnection notice containing a disconnection date of August 9 for a total overdue amount of \$227.84 because Ms. ██████████ failed to pay the July 22 installment of \$89.

On August 16, Ms. ██████████ filed a second dispute with the CAD. On August 19, the CAD issued its decision requiring that Ms. ██████████ pay the July 22 installment by August 18

and the August 22 installments by September 3. On August 19, Ms. [REDACTED] paid \$89.00 that was due on July 22.

On August 24, Ms. [REDACTED] appealed the CAD decision to the Commission claiming that her expenses were exceeding her income and that she would like to have her payment arrangement reduced.

### **III. DECISION**

The current ELP payment arrangement is the best arrangement that can be offered by CMP. Neither a special arrangement nor regular arrangement would lower the monthly payment. We uphold CAD's decision requiring continued payments of \$89 per month. Ms. [REDACTED] is overdue currently on the August 22 and September 22 installments for her ELP arrangement. She must continue with this arrangement until she reapplies for HEAP and is re-certified for ELP. As an SSI recipient, Ms. [REDACTED] should be eligible for additional assistance from the Town of Kennebunkport, if necessary to make her payments.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 13th day of October 1999

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

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Dennis L. Keschl  
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch

Nugent  
Diamond

## NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73 et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (5).

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